

INFORMATION SHEET

Candles and other Open-Flame Devices in Places of Assembly

A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Prevention Division to use open flames, candles and portable cooking in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants or drinking establishments. *NFPA 1:1.12*

- No open flame devices shall be used in any assembly occupancy, unless otherwise permitted by the following: *NFPA 1:20.1.4.2*
 - This requirement shall not apply to heat-producing equipment complying with 9.2.2 of NFPA 101. *NFPA 1: 20.1.4.2(4)*
 - When used in conformance with Section 20.1.4.2(3) as amended.
 - This requirement shall not apply to food service operations in accordance with 12.7.1 of NFPA 101. *NFPA 1: 20.1.4.2(5)*
 - Gas lights shall be permitted to be used, provided that precautions are taken, subject to the approval of the AHJ, to prevent ignition of any combustible materials. *NFPA 1: 20.1.4.2(6)*
- Candles and open-flame devices shall be permitted to be used in the following situations, provided that precautions satisfactory to the AHJ are taken to prevent ignition of any combustible material or injury to occupants: *NFPA 1: 20.1.4.2(3)* as amended
 - For ceremonial or religious purposes.
 - On stages and platforms where part of a performance.
 - Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and candle flame is protected.
 - Candelabras with flame-lighted candles and/or other opened flamed devices shall be securely held in place to prevent falling out or overturning, located away from the public attending the religious ceremonies and located away from contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.
 - Multiple candles used for religious purposes, which are ignited by parishioners, shall be securely held in fixed holders and located away from contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles. The devices or holders shall be designed so that the candles cannot fall out or be easily tipped over.
- Portable cooking equipment that is not flue-connected shall be permitted only as follows: *NFPA 1:20.1.4.1.4*
 - Equipment fueled by small heat sources that can be readily extinguished by water, such as candles or alcohol-burning equipment, including solid alcohol, shall be permitted to be used, provided that precautions satisfactory to the AHJ are taken to prevent ignition of any combustible materials.
 - Candles shall be permitted to be used on tables used for food service where securely supported on substantial non-combustible bases located to avoid danger of ignition of combustible materials and only where approved by the AHJ.
 - Candle flames shall be protected.
 - “Flaming sword” or other equipment involving open flames and flamed dishes, such as cherries jubilee or crepe suzette, shall be permitted to be used, provided that precautions subject to the approval of the AHJ are taken.
 - Listed and approved LP-Gas commercial food service appliances shall be permitted to be used where in accordance with NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.

The items listed are basic information only. Codes are subject to change. Additional requirements may apply.

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